

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

The factual record of media consolidation to date does not bode well for loosening these rules. Even considering the "alternative providers," we see less of minorities, women outside of traditional roles, and serious consideration of sexual issues than we did in the early 1970's. Coverage of politics stands at an all time low. Facts that conflict with the corporate perspective receive next to no coverage: for example the minimum wage would be over \$10/hour today if it kept up with inflation, over \$14/hour if it had kept up with the growth of the economy in the 90's. Surely we need more diversity of ownership, not less.